CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

What is claimed is:

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (previously amended)

A method for stabilizing and/or accumulating cellular RNA in vivo resulting in an increase in the total amount of cellular mRNA per cell as well as the protection of RNA from degradation during subsequent isolation procedures comprising:

1) preparing cell culture media depleted of phosphate

2) adding thiophosphate as the sole source of phosphate to the media

3) culturing cells in the modified media for a sufficient time such that most mRNAs and/or rRNAs are modified with phosphorothioate linkages

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)